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PRESS RELEASE AND PHOTO CALL 7 December 1992

Protest on 17th anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of East Timor
Indonesia must release captured resistance leader

Demonstrators at the Indonesian Embassy (38 Grosvenor Square, London) will today call for the immediate release of Xanana Gusmao, leader of the East Timor resistance who was kidnapped by Indonesian troops in Dili on 20 November 1992.

They will also call for an end to Indonesia's illegal occupation of East Timor on this day, the 17th anniversary of the Indonesian invasion of East Timor on 7 December 1975.

The demonstration, from 12.30 till 1.30, will include a 'flag ceremony' involving Indonesian and East Timorese flags, with East Timorese refugees now living in the UK present to express their rejection of Indonesia's illegal annexation of their country.

The demonstrators will also hand in to the Indonesian embassy a list of the names of the many hundreds of people killed, wounded and 'disappeared' during the massacre at the Santa Cruz cemetery on 12 November 1991.

Xanana Gusmao has been held incommunicado since his arrest. The International Red Cross continues to be denied access to him. Many members of his family have also been arrested [illegible] he allegedly renounced the struggle against Indonesia was clearly made under duress. It was a propaganda stunt staged by the Suharto regime to claim that the resistance in East Timor has collapsed. It is feared that Mr Gusmao was subjected to many forms of torture and persecution, in order to secure his compliance, a method familiar to the British public during the Gulf War, when British pilots were paraded on TV screens by Saddam Hussein's regime.

Picture editors: We invite you to be present to take pictures of the flag ceremony which will take place at 1.15pm.